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**Amendments to the Drawings**

The replacement sheet of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** include changes to, and replace, Figures 1 and 2 of the original sheets of drawings. Figures 1 and 2 are now labeled as prior art.

Attachment: replacement sheet of drawings for Figures 1 and 2

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### REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 8, 2007. Claims 1-37 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 18, 19, 28 and 37 have been amended to correct informalities therein, claims 1, 3, 14, 20 and 29 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2, 4-7, 13, 15, 23, 26-28, 31 and 33-35 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claims 8, 9, 12 and 30 have been amended to depend from claim 7, 4, 2 and 33, respectively, claims 21, 22 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 23, claims 16 and 18 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 2, claims 17 and 19 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 15, and claims 36 and 37 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 33. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-13, 15-19, 21-27 and 29-36 are now pending, with claims 2, 4-7, 13, 15-19, 23, 26-28, 31 and 33-37 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to as failing to have the appropriate labeling.. Claims 18, 19, 28 and 37 were objected to as having informalities.

By this Amendment, Figures 1 and 2 have been amended to be labeled as prior art. The replacement sheet of drawings attached hereto as **Exhibit A** do not introduce new matter, and replaces Figures 1 and 2 of the original sheets of drawings.

In addition, claims 18, 19, 28 and 37 have been amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

Claims 1, 3, 14, 16-19, 29, 30, 32, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by JP 2002-254630 (Murai). Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§ 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by EP 0 670 218 (Onda et al.). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Murai in view of JP 10-264378 (Ikeda).

The Office Action also indicates that claims 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15, 23, 24, 26-28, 31 and 33-35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 2, 4-7, 13, 15, 23, 26-28, 31 and 33-35 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claims 9 and 12 have been amended to depend from claims 4 and 2, respectively. Claim 10 depends from claim 2, and claim 11 depends from claim 10. Claim 24 depends from claim 23. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-7, 9-13, 15, 23, 24, 26-28, 31 and 33-35 as amended are submitted to be allowable.

In addition, claims 1, 3, 14, 20 and 29 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 8 and 30 have been amended to depend from claims 7 and 33 (and therefore are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons), respectively, claims 21, 22 and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 23 (and therefore are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons), claims 16 and 18 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 2 (and therefore are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons), claims 17 and 19 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 15 (and therefore are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons), and claims 36 and 37 have been amended to include the features of amended claim 33 (and therefore are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons). Claim 32 depends from claim 30 (and therefore is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons).

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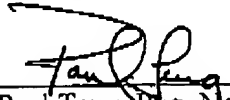
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In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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# **EXHIBIT A**

to  
**AMENDMENT**  
(Serial No. 10/530,607)